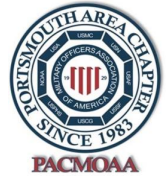




The Salute Online



Monthly newsletter of the Portsmouth Area Chapter, an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America, serving Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Smithfield, Franklin, and surrounding counties, Virginia, since 1983. Dinner meetings are the Second Thursday of each month except July and August. Although MOAA and PACMOAA actively lobby legislatures for all US uniformed services members, we are nonpartisan and do not participate in political activities.

VOLUME XXXXII Issue VI LEARN MORE AT PACMOAA.ORG JUNE-JULY 2023

REMINDER: Although MOAA and PACMOAA actively lobby legislatures for all US uniformed services members, we are nonpartisan and do not participate in political activities.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



PACMOAA family: The opening lines of The Tale of Two Cities, begins with ---these are the best of times, and these are the worst of times--

During our last meeting we enjoyed an amazing and positive presentation regarding the challenges and state of affairs as it relates to our pharmacy benefits. We must stay diligent and vocal about our needs.

On the other side we are all saddened by the loss of two of our longtime members Lt Col Bob Steorts, USAF (Ret) and LTC Shirley Barker USAR (Ret). They were both leaders and mentors to PACMOAA and we will now carry the torch they held for protecting the benefits of our uniformed service members and dependent family members.

God bless,
Bruce



Below Right: Our President, CAPT Bruce LaLonde, presenting our speaker, CAPT Tim Thompson the PACMOAA Certificate of Appreciation.

Left: CAPT Tim Thompson, answering questions about the Area Pharmacies.



Left: CAPT LaLonde Presenting Marie, our server, with an additional Token of our Appreciation for her service at the PACMOAA 40th Anniversary Dinner Celebration.

PACMOAA
LEADERSHIP

See Leadership Pulldown



CHAPTER NEWS

JUNE

- 4-7 Battle of Midway 1942
- 06 [WWII D-Day 1944](#)
- 08 [PACMOAA Scholarship Dinner Meeting](#) 1800 Roger Brown's Restaurant
- 12 Women's Veterans Day
- 14 [US Army 248th Birthday](#) (1775)/ Flag Day
- 17 USN Hospital Corps Established
- 18 Father's Day
- 21 [Summer Solstice](#)
- 22 GI Bill Signed 1944
- 23 [USCG Auxiliary Birthday](#) (1939)
- 25 Start of Korean War 1950
- 27 [PTSD AWARENESS DAY](#)

JULY

- 01 Women Army Corps (WAC) 1943
- 04 Independence Day
- 12 VCOG Third Quarter Meeting, Location TBD
- 16 [PACMOAA JOINT BREAKFAST/BRUNCH](#) Roger Brown's 1000 -1300
- 20 [PACMOAA BOD Meeting](#) virtual, 1400-1600
- 26 Americans with Disabilities Act 1980
- 27 End of Korean War 1953
- 30 Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service (WAVES) Est 1942

HAPPY JUNE & JULY BIRTHDAYS

Martha Anderson Joyce Johnson Irv Lindley Kevin Terry

JULY

Tom Cahill**Sherry Ferki****Roger Hirsh****Andre Mayfield**

The June Dinner

will be held on **Thursday, June 8th** at Roger Brown's Banquet Room,
316 High Street, Portsmouth (757) 399-5377

Sign in and social hour begins at 6 PM, with Dinner Served at 6:30 PM.

Buffett Menu*Harvest Salad**Marinated Flank Steak**Blackened Mahi with Fresh Pico de Gallo**Wild Rice**Steamed Broccoli with Light Cream Sauce**Apple Cobbler**Corn Bread and Butter*

Cost is \$25 (includes gratuity & tax). Cash bar available. Please make your reservation no later than **Sunday, May 4th** with Sherry Ferki at 757-922-7030 or by email at navmedarmynurse@gmail.com

A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID

PACMOAA 2023 SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Caroline Lewton from Smithfield High School is the 2023 PACMOAA Scholarship winner. She will be attending VA Tech in the fall. Caroline had a 4.12 GPA and was in the top 15% of students at the beginning of the spring semester. Among her

many leadership positions in the AJROTC unit, she is the Executive Officer and Rifle Team Captain. There will be more information about Caroline in the next newsletter. Congratulations from PACMOAA to an outstanding student !!

GUEST SPEAKER



During our annual JROTC scholarship June meeting our very own PACMOAA President CAPT Bruce LaLonde USN (Ret) will provide an informative presentation about **Portsmouth Safety Town**. As President of Safety Town, Bruce leads a professional and focused group of volunteer safety instructors who collaborate with the Portsmouth Police Dept, the Fire Dept, the Sheriff's office and the Portsmouth Public Schools Superintendent to provide safety training to Portsmouth Public School elementary students during the school year. At other times, Safety Town offers similar safety awareness training to local day care, seniors, and Boy Scout/Girl Scout groups.

Portsmouth Safety Town, established in 1975, is a tax exempt 501 c 3, who annually educates over 5,000 students. Let's sit back and learn about a unique non-profit city sponsored service available in Portsmouth.

MEMBERSHIP

PACMOAA had 66 paid members as of 26 May 2023, that includes our 4 new members this year, 6 life members and 1 honorary life member. Sadly, as noted in the Personal Affairs section, Lt Col Bob Steorts and LTC Shirley Barker died recently. Gladys Steorts will be added as a Surviving Spouse member. Thus, we have 54 regular members and 12 Surviving Spouses that have paid their dues this year.

The Annual Joint Brunch will be held at Roger Brown's again this summer on 16 July 2023 from 1000 – 1300. That is a great event to invite potential members as an introduction to our chapter and some of its activities with wonderful food and camaraderie!

At the MOAA Council President's seminar held on 27 April in conjunction with the 2023 Advocacy in Action Campaign, chapter effectiveness was discussed. Recruiting and Retention are at the center of Chapter Health. PACMOAA consistently does very well with retention of current members other than deaths but has faced the same issue with recruiting that most other VSOs face of decreasing new members. Active duty and recent retirees are not as interested in joining groups/organizations as the WWII, Korean and Vietnam veterans.

I need help with recruiting. Both in PACMOAA and in the Hampton Roads Chapter of the Virginia Nurses Association (another organization I have been active in a leadership position for over 30 years), many potential members I have spoken to state they do not feel they can join as they cannot attend meetings or actively participate. I stress that their membership helps the organization with legislative advocacy. Thus, maintaining or improving military benefits that include all Uniformed Services, National Guard and Reservists, family members and Surviving Spouses.

I will be happy to send you a copy of our recruitment brochure and will bring some to each meeting.

Every Member is a Recruiter!!

Reminder on Guidelines for Paying PACMOAA Dues, Dinners, etc. Online

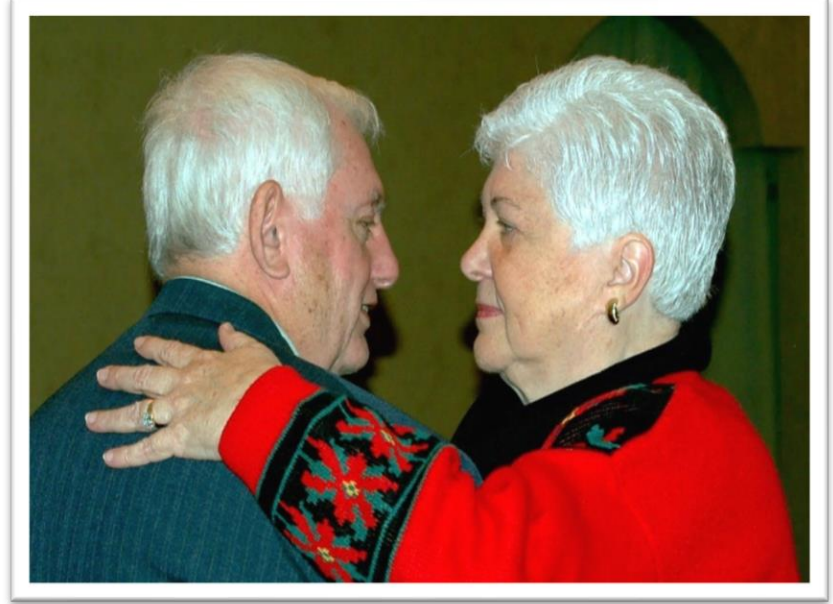
Members need to create and/or login to their PayPal account.

From the Account Overview page, click the Send button. If prompted for whether the money will be sent to a business or friend, enter "friend". Type PACMOAATreasurer@gmail.com in the block where it says "name, @username, email, or mobile" and click "next". Enter the amount to transmit and add "For PACMOAA Dues" in the note section and click "continue". Review the information, including the bank account or credit card you want the funds to come from. Press "Send payment now" when everything looks correct.

PERSONAL AFFAIRS

IN MEMORIUM

Lt Col Robert (Bob) Steorts, USAF (Ret)



I am very sorry to report the death of Bob Steorts. Bob joined PACTROA in March 1988 and was active in both our chapter and the Virginia Council of Chapters (VCOC). He served PACMOAA loyally for 35 years: serving in a variety of roles, including President, 1st VP, 2nd VP, BOD, Chapter Historian for 33 years, Chaplain for 21 years, Co-Chair of Bylaws Committee for over 20 years, member of Scholarship Committee, and Hospitality Co-Chair. I worked closely with Bob for over 20 years on the BOD, as Bylaws Co-Chairs and Scholarship Committee. We also spent numerous hours going through pictures and articles for the 30th and 35th PACMOAA Anniversary Celebrations.

Bob's service to VCOC included PACTROA VCOC representative for many years, going on to become Vice President, and then President for VCOC (1997-1999).

Bob was very proud of his service to our country especially having over 5000 flight hours in the B-52, including 1000 hours combat time from four deployments to Southeast Asia from 1968-1972. He had a wall in his office displaying his many medals and commendations including the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal Ninth Oak Leaf Cluster.

Bob was a true gentleman, a wonderful friend, and a fountain of information about our chapter's history! He was a treasured member of our PACMOAA family and will truly be missed. Please keep Gladys and his family in your thoughts and prayers.



Submitted by Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)
Personal Affairs Chair

Obituary below from:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/pilotonline/name/robert-steorts-obituary?id=51819735>

ROBERT STEORTS OBITUARY

Ret. Lt. Col. Robert Allen Steorts, USAF, Retired (86) went to be with the Lord on May 5, 2023. He was the son of the late Allie and Anon Steorts of Clay, WV and was predeceased by 3 brothers and 8 sisters.

Robert was retired after 26 years from the United States Air Force an active member of New Creation United Methodist Church, past president of PACMOAA, and enjoyed the Thursday Morning Prayer Breakfast Group.

He is survived by his wife Gladys Steorts; children Craig Allen Steorts and wife Alyson of Bossier City, LA, Kenneth Dale Steorts and wife Joy of Memphis, TN, and Pamela Steorts Centers of Fairfax, VA; 6 grandchildren; 4 great grandchildren and extended family and friends.

A funeral service was conducted on Monday, May 15, 2023, 2 PM at New Creation UMC, 4320 Bruce Road, Chesapeake, VA 23321 by Rev. Randy Duncan and Rev. Bob Cofield. Burial was conducted with military honors on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, 10 AM at Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery. The family received friends at R.W. Baker & Co. Funeral Home and Crematory, 5685 Lee Farm Lane, Suffolk, VA 23435 on Sunday, May 14, 2023 from 6:30-8:00 PM. Memorial donations may be made to the Suffolk SPCA, 412 Kings Fork Road, Suffolk, VA 23434.

Published by The Virginian-Pilot on May 7, 2023.

Note: Bob's daughter helped prepare a wonderful slide show depicting Bob from his early years, including graduating at the top of his senior class; in his Air Force uniform; and him and Gladys at their wedding and on their honeymoon. They looked like movie stars!! The slide show was shown throughout the viewing and at the Celebration of Life for Bob for all to share memories of his life. Eleven PACMOAA members/spouses were able to attend the Celebration of Life, and several attended the burial with military honors at Albert G. Horton Jr Memorial Veterans cemetery.

IN MEMORIUM

LTC Shirley Barker, USAR (Ret)



I am very sorry to report the death of Shirley Barker on 19 May. She joined PACTROA in 1993 and was an active participant in the chapter. Shirley served in Leadership Team positions continuously for over 20 years! Before becoming President, Shirley served as VCOC Legislative (Leg) Rep, President (1999-2001), VCOC Leg Rep (2001 – 2007), assistant VCOC Leg Rep (2007 – 2014), and Hospitality Co-Chair since Dec 2013. In addition to attending most dinner meetings, for many years Shirley attended the annual VCOC Leg Day in Richmond, Quarterly VCOC meetings, the Congressional Luncheon in Northern VA as well as being in the Annual Portsmouth Memorial Day Parade. I did not attend many of the VCOC Leg Days or the Congressional Luncheons, but Shirley and I rode in the Memorial Day parade almost every year for over 15 years. I had the pleasure of driving Shirley to dinner meetings for over 10 years and we had many interesting conversations. She was very interested in alternative medicine and often shared the information she had with me. In addition, I spent many hours with Shirley last summer when she was in rehab in Suffolk working on her Member in the Spotlight article. Shirley was the smiling person that signed everyone in for dinner meetings and took their money for about 10 years! She will be missed and our thoughts and prayers go out to her family.

Left: Shirley, Steve Turner, Hal Hostetler, Alice Taves, & Dolly Cherrington at VCOC Leg Day in 2012.





Left: Alice Taves, Sherry, Shirley & Karl Wilson at Portsmouth Memorial Day Parade 2013.

Submitted by: Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)
Personal Affairs Chair

NOTE: Shirley's obituary will be in the Virginian Pilot on Sunday 4 June. Services will be on 8 June with visitation at 1100 and the funeral service at 1200 at the W.J. Smith and Sons Funeral Home at 210 Harpersville Road in Newport News, Virginia 23601. [\(757\) 596-6911](tel:7575966911) [\(757\)-596-1704](tel:7575961704)

SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

Surviving Spouse Corner: 9 Ways to Get Through Hard Times

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2023-news-articles/member-spotlight/surviving-spouse-corner-9-ways-to-get-through-hard-times/>

By: Suzanne Walker May 02, 2023

From celebrating joyous occasions like Mother's Day and graduations and welcoming warmer weather and spring flowers to enduring the sometimes melancholy days of spring showers and the remembrances of the fallen at Memorial Day, the month of May can sometimes feel like an emotional roller coaster.

It might help to have some strategies for handling lows. Consider these tips:

1. Seek out the friendship and companionship of others. Do something you enjoy with a friend or family member.
2. Take a walk, and enjoy being outside on a nice day.
3. Give your time to a worthy cause. Support those less fortunate, or visit someone who is lonely.
4. Learn something new. Try a new craft or hobby.
5. Listen to music. Maybe try a genre or artist you have not listened to before.
6. Label and organize your photos. Relive the happy memories by documenting the stories behind your photos.
7. Write a letter. A handwritten note or card is always welcome.
8. Attend a patriotic event. Watch a Memorial Day parade or help place flags at a local cemetery.
9. Make new friends by participating in your [local MOAA chapter](#) or the [Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter](#).

Send Us Your Feedback

We'd love to hear from you. Please let us know if this article was helpful by sending an email to sscomm@moaa.org.

[MORE SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER ARTICLES](#)

Overview of MOAA Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter (MSSVC02) Meeting 16 May 2023 with updates as of 26 May 2023

Every other month, MSSVO2 has a speaker to alternate with a social event. This month's speakers included:

- Lt. Col Mark Belinsky, USA (Ret), Director, Currently Serving and Retired Affairs
- Jen Goodale, Director, Military Families & Survivor Policy

- Jon Brenneman, MOAA Vacations

Lt. Col Mark Belinsky stated 2023 Advocacy in Action was very successful with the Restore BAH bill with 3 new co-sponsors since previous day so up to 45. He also noted that there is better language to update the pharmacy bill per having an independent analysis of access data and impact on vulnerable populations and that it should be ready for submission to 2024 NDAA.

Jen Goodale gave an update on the bills related to Survivors that Mark discussed at March meeting:

1. **Remarriage Bill or Love Lives on Act** introduced in 2022 and now re-introduced as **S.1266**. Remarriage Facebook Group – **Love Lives on Act of 2023**. The purpose of legislation is to allow surviving spouses to remarry at any age and retain their benefits. Currently, if they remarry while under 55 years old, they lose benefits like DIC & SBP.
 - a. **TAKE ACTION:** <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/47966/>
 - b. MOAA article per this issue – **“Senate Bill would End Remarriage Penalty for Surviving Spouses”** <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2023-news-articles/spouse-and-family/senate-bill-would-end-remarriage-penalty-for-surviving-spouses/> 9 May 2023.
2. **Caring for Survivors H.R. 1083 and S.414**. Goal to bring DIC up to 55% like with other federal programs. Now 43%. During March MSSVO2 meeting, Mark reminded everyone that this will probably takes some time, like repealing the “Widows Tax”.
3. **Respect for Grieving Military Families Act – H.R. 3232 & S. 1588**. Prevents DFAS from immediately recouping any overpayment of benefits and instead gives survivors the opportunity to repay the benefits over a 12-month period. It would also allow the Secretary of Defense to forgive the repayment.
 - a. **TAKE ACTION** at: <https://moaa.quorum.us/campaign/48057/>
 - b. MOAA article per this issue – **“Help MOAA Save New Surviving Spouses From an Unexpected Financial Burden”** <https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2023-news-articles/advocacy/help-moaa-save-new-surviving-spouses-from-an-unexpected-financial-burden/> 22 May 2023.

Questions and Answers:

I discussed the frustration of members feeling disconnected as Advocacy in Action only in person this year by MOAA leadership and council leaders versus many of us meeting with legislators virtually for past 3 years. Jen Goodale thanked me for the feedback and mentioned MOAA is looking at virtual meetings for surviving spouse issues in August during the legislator’s recess. MOAA will put info together to assist us.

Another attendee mentioned they were involved with their legislators all year long not just during Advocacy in Action.

Jon Brenneman with MOAA Vacations reviewed the webpage at <https://www.moaa.org/content/benefits-and-discounts/exclusive-discounts/travel/moaa-vacations/> and discussed some of the upcoming excursions. He discussed that prices were much cheaper and deals more inclusive than if going through another vendor. Jon mentioned helping MOAA members that did not book vacation through MOAA vacations, but they had an issue with the agency they booked through. Jon said families and friends could travel with MOAA members at the same rate as the member. The contact number is 1-800-211-5107 and the email address is mail@moaavac.com.

Several members expressed interest in a book club and anyone interested should contact Pat Green at deg06@aol.com. Her phone number is 1-407-744-7933. Current book “Death in Her Hands” by Ottessa Moshfegh and it is a mystery.



The Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter has a program meeting every other month with a social on alternating months.

June 20, 2023: Information/Sharing Resources

July 18, 2023: Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS). Website: <https://www.taps.org/>

Submitted by: Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)

PACMOAA Surviving Spouse Liaison and VCOA Surviving Spouse Liaison.

MOAA & LEGISLATIVE

This quarterly meeting began as usual with a welcome and review of the agenda. There were 37 attendees with 3 VCOC Leadership Team members attending – Linc Smith, Monti Zimmerman, and Sherry Ferki. Three states presented their legislative efforts with successes and failures – Indiana, Virginia (Monti Zimmerman), and Michigan. All discussed some variation of military tax exemption and each one noted the importance of VSOs/ coalitions working together to pass their legislative priorities.

Each meeting has a representative of the Defense-State Liaison Office (DSLO) giving an update. Spousal unemployment is 20% or more and it was stressed that it needs to be discussed on the federal and state levels. Out of 5 DSLO Key Issues, 2 were highlighted: Licensure Exemptions for Military Family Child Care Providers and Military and Family Life Counselors Licensure Waiver. Several bills are currently in the House and Senate addressing Employer Hiring Tax incentive. H.R. 1277 is the Military Spouse Hiring Act (introduced by Rep Don Beyer from VA on 3/1/2023) which expands the work opportunity tax credit (WOTC) to include the hiring of a qualified military spouse. S. 596 is the Military Spouse Hiring Act (introduced by Sen Tim Kaine on 3/1/2023).

NOTE: **DSLO's** are DoD State Liaison Offices that work with states to remove unnecessary barriers and significantly improve the quality of life for military families through engagement with state policy makers, nonprofit associations, and other state leaders.

The dates for meetings for the next year were displayed. The purpose of this group is to share best practices and information, and everyone is invited. Please let me know if you are interested in attending or would like a copy of any of the material presented.

Submitted by: MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret)

PACMOAA INVOLVEMENT IN ADVOCACY IN ACTION 2023



On 11 May 2023, MAJ Ferki, CAPT LaLonde, and CDR Smith, VCOC President and PACMOAA member met via Zoom with Rep. Bobby Scott; Paige Swartz, his Legislative Director; and Dillion Creek for about 15 minutes. This was a follow up visit from the 26 April Advocacy in Action on the Hill when CDR Linc Smith and RDML Hewitt met with Paige Swartz.

CDR Smith began the meeting thanking Rep Scott for his support for the military community and briefly reviewed the productive meeting on 26 April with Paige Swartz. MAJ Ferki reviewed the 2023 Advocacy in Action issues:

- **Restore the full basic housing allowance (BAH)** - The current BHA does not cover the federal definition of “affordable housing”, especially for Jr enlisted. This has worsened with rising housing costs for both rental properties and home sales. It was stressed the HR 2537 addresses this issue and only has 42 co-sponsors at this point.
- **Restore the TRICARE pharmacy network** – This resulted from a DHA cost cutting measure that resulted in the loss of many independent pharmacies and decreased in network pharmacies about 25% from 55,000 locations to 42,000. This impacted the elderly, those living in rural areas (which includes much of Suffolk and some of Chesapeake), and individuals with serious medical conditions. MOAA is asking that you support language in the FY2024 NDAA to analyze the data about access to pharmacies by vulnerable populations.

- Both of these issues were tied in with the importance of supporting the all-volunteer force. Military members, retirees, veterans and their families need to feel their quality of life is protected. Most recruits come from military families and with many beneficiaries feeling like they are paying more for less, recommending military service to others is not likely to happen. This can also impact retention of current military members.

Rep. Scott seemed concerned with both these issues and said he agreed to review them. He said that any money for the military would be impacted by the looming debt ceiling and spent several minutes discussing this. CDR Smith thanked Rep Scott again for supporting the Richard Starr Act and asked his assistance in getting several other Virginia Representatives and Senator Warner on board with co-sponsoring the bill. When asked if there were any questions, Rep. Scott said he wanted to be sure he knew what we were asking for. The MOAA asks were again reviewed: Co-sponsoring HR 2537 and supporting language in FY2024 NDAA per analyzing access to pharmacies. As there were no other questions, we all thanked Rep Scott and his team for meeting with us.

Update: As of 26 May 2023, HR 2537 has 50 co-sponsors but only 2 are from VA and Rep Scott is not one of them!

Submitted by Sherry Ferki, MAJ, USA (Ret)

[Arlington Cemetery Fix Moving Forward – You Can Help MOAA Make a Difference](https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2023-news-articles/advocacy/arlington-cemetery-fix-moving-forward-%E2%80%93-you-can-help-moaa-make-a-difference/)

By: Mark Belinsky May 23, 2023

Nearly 155 years since the first national celebration of [what would become Memorial Day](#) took place at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC), a significant threat remains to the eligibility for interment with military honors at the hallowed site – a threat MOAA needs your help to stop.

[TAKE ACTION: [Ask Your House Member to Support the Expanding America's National Cemetery Act](#)]

The proposed federal rule for an [ANC eligibility reduction](#) still looms, but support for a long-term solution is growing. And just as the Grand Army of the Republic – an association of Civil War veterans – championed [the cause of Decoration Day](#), MOAA continues its work alongside [The Military Coalition](#) in the fight to preserve honors that matter intensely to those who serve and have served, their families, and their survivors.

What are we up against? Views like those expressed by one legislative staffer, who said, *“No one promised you burial with military honors.”*

[THE FINAL CHAPTER: [Preparing for a Military Sponsor’s Death, and What to Do When It Happens](#)]

It’s a position ignoring the service and sacrifice of so many veterans who would lose ANC eligibility under the proposed rule changes. This includes many 20-year retirees, women veterans whose service came before many roles were open to all, and the most troubling of the exclusions – older veterans with plans in place for ANC who could face agonizing and unexpected decisions in the coming months or years.

The eligibility reduction criteria focus on maintaining eligibility for those who received close-combat awards, limiting interment to those with a Purple Heart or Silver Star and above. Veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam eras who have planned on this benefit for decades would be subject to this proposed reduction.

[HEAR FROM THESE VETERANS: [Closing the Gates? Why Congress Must Act on Arlington National Cemetery](#)]

These flawed eligibility changes stem from flawed instructions to the Department of the Army from Congress, which prioritized the availability of ANC real estate – which will run out in coming decades whether or not the changes take effect – over promises made to veterans. The solution: The Expanding America’s National Cemetery

Act ([H.R. 1413](#)), which has grown to over 41 co-sponsors as postcards from the May issue of *Military Officer magazine* continue to flow into offices.

This bipartisan bill is championed by Rep. Lisa McClain (R-Mich.) and Rep. Chrissy Houlahan (D-Pa.), both members of the House Armed Services Committee. H.R. 1413 offers a long-term solution authorizing DoD and the VA to transform an existing VA-run national cemetery into the next location that will afford interment with equivalent military honors as ANC reaches capacity.

How You Can Help

As Memorial Day approaches, take one or more of the steps below to amplify MOAA's request for lawmakers to co-sponsor this bill (Check the list of co-sponsors [at this link](#)):

- Activate your network to write and call your representatives and ask them to co-sponsor H.R.1413.
- Encourage your network and family to use MOAA's Capital Hotline – 866-272-MOAA (6622) – a toll-free line to the U.S. Capitol switchboard, to connect with their legislators' offices.
- [Share this link](#) to MOAA's Legislative Action Center on social media. It will allow all who see it to generate a message to their lawmaker in support of the bill.
- Ask other local military and veterans service organizations, such as local posts, to call and engage on this issue.

Unsure what to say to your network or your House member? Consider these talking points:

- **Long-Term Fix Needed:** No matter the eligibility changes, ANC eventually will run out of room. An enduring solution is required to maintain an equivalent level of benefits.
- **Partnership Makes Sense:** The VA runs 155 national cemeteries. DoD runs only ANC and the United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery. While DoD's primary focus for resources is national security, partnering with the VA will provide an integrative approach with resources – the VA can run operations, and the armed services can provide ceremonial honors at the equivalent level of ANC.



- **Honoring Service:** Put simply, transforming a VA national cemetery to afford military honors would sustain service-earned benefits.

[Make your voice heard](#) this Memorial Day and join the grassroots effort to protect these earned honors. You can follow updates on this and other MOAA advocacy campaigns at [MOAA's Advocacy News page](#).

Submitted by: MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret)

VCOOC

Third Quarter Meeting, July 12, 2023 10:00 am – 12:00pm LOC TBD, In person and Zoom

Fourth Quarter Meeting Oct 24-26, 2023 Biennial Luncheon LOC TBD In Person

2023 JLC INITIATIVES

- JLC March 6, 2023, information can be accessed at Virginia Department of Veterans Services at: [2023-Military-Veterans-Bills-and-Budget-as-of-03-06-2023.pdf \(virginia.gov\)](#)

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

2023 JROTC Contacts/Award Ceremonies

Updated 5/19/2023

School	Director	Phone No.	Date/ Time	Cadet Presenter
CHESAPEAKE	<i>All AFJROTC</i>		10 May 2023	CAPT Rick Titi
Deep Creek HS darrell.pearman@cpschools.com	MAJ Darrell Pearman CMSgt Pabon	558-5302 HS 558-5304 JROTC	Ceremony 6:30 pm	Ashlee Cheeseman
Grassfield HS dirk.sandstrom@cpschools.com	Lt Col Dirk Sandstrom CMst Smiley	558-4749 HS 558-4516 JROTC	Presenters asked to arrive between	Samantha Bustarde
Great Bridge HS Christian Wendler christian.wendler@cpschools.com	Lt Col Christian Wendler SMSgt Smith	558-5191 HS 546-3651 JROTC	5:30 & 6 PM to help get awards organized	Jacob Goldstein
Indian River HS Lynn Holmbeck lynn.holmbeck@cpschools.com	Lt Col Lynn Holmbeck CNSgt Patrie	578-7000 HS 452-6125 JROTC		Skylar Naugle
Oscar Smith HS michael.kenemuth@cpschools.com	MAJ Michael Kenemuth MSgt Cain	548-0696 HS 548-0498 JROTC		Kierra Moree
Western Branch HS bryan.spalla@cpschools.com	COL Bryan Spalla SMSgt Terrell Rogers	638-7900 HS		Tyler Hustedt
PORTSMOUTH				
Churchland HS MCJROTC paul.pratt@portsk12.com	LtCol Paul Pratt	686-2500 HS	16 May 2023 0900 in library	COL Hal Hostetler Cadet 2 nd Lt Jacob Underwood
I.C. Norcom HS NJROTC joseph.redwood@portsk12.com	CWO2 Joseph Redwood 754-1439 Chief Covington	393-5442 HS 397-4096 JROTC	24 May 2023 1800 in auditorium	CAPT Rick Titi Emancia Powell
Manor HS (Woodrow Wilson HS) AJROTC wallace.white@portsk12.com	MAJ Wallace White SSG Orlanda Gordon MSG (R) Stanley Hill	757-465-2907 HS 757-465-2947 JROTC	1 June 2023 0900	CAPT LaLonde Cadet/SFC Elijah Bernard
SUFFOLK				
Lakeland HS AFJROTC sheldonpowdar@portsk12.net	SGT Sheldon Powdar Ms. Rice Guidance counselor	925-5790 HS	25 May 2023 1300	CAPT Rick Titi Cadet CMSgt Jaden A. Barnes

mevisarice@spsk12.net				
Nansemond River HS AFJROTC davidhedger@spsk12.net	LtCol David Hedger Sgt Young	923-4101	10 May 2023 6:15-8 pm	MAJ Sherry Ferki Cadet Capt Joshua Wiley
Kings Fork HS	No JROTC class this year	923-5240 Scholarship info to brucebaxter@spsk12.net		
Smithfield HS AJROTC pbadoian@iwcs.k12.va.us	LTC Pete Badoian 1SGT Marvin Hunter	357-0056	25 May 1315 in SHS auditorium	MAJ Sherry Ferki CSM Alexander Ramirez
Franklin HS drobinson@fcpsva.org or lwright@fcpsva.org	LTC Linwood Wright 1SGT Robinson	562-5187 school 802-0427 Robinson?		Email sent 4/20/23 Message left 5/1/23

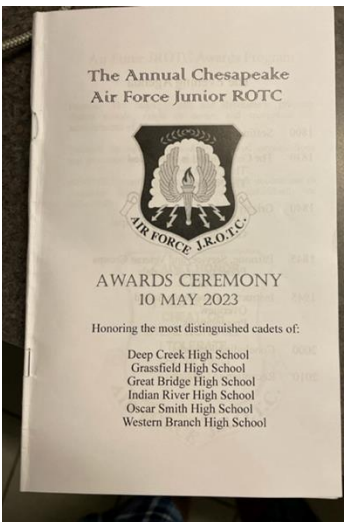
JROTC AWARD CEREMONIES 2023



MAJ Ferki attended the Army JROTC award ceremony at Smithfield HS on 25 May 2023. She presented the MOAA medal and certificate to CSM Alexander Ramirez, who was awarded numerous medal that day. Alex is a senior and will attend VA Tech. Twenty-four organizations participated in the ceremony. In addition to MOAA, some of those in attendance included: the VFW; ROCKs, Inc. (largest professional military officers’ association with a majority African American membership), DAR, etc. The ceremony was very impressive, as were the cadets!

After the 24 organizations presented their awards, with the assistance of the Principal and LTC Badoian (Senior JROTC Instructor,), the cadets were awarded numerous medals – physical fitness, citizenship, leadership, scholastic achievement, drills, and/or combinations of all listed. The Army JROTC mission, per the Army website, “To Motivate Young People to be Better Citizens”, is the guidepost for the programs’

success. The cadets illustrated this well with their pride in their achievements and competitiveness. It was a pleasure to see such a well-organized and disciplined group of young people that will be our future leaders!



LEFT: PACMOAA CAPT Rick Titi, with an AFJROTC Cadet CMSgt Jaden A. Barnes, from Lakeland HS, Suffolk. He also did the Presentations for All Chesapeake HS on May 10th.



Left: CAPT Rick TiTi presenting the MOAA NJROTC awards at IC Norcom HS on May 24th.



Right: CAPT Bruce LaLonde presenting the MOAA Leadership Award to Cadet Elijah Bernard from Manor HS in Portsmouth

Below: Manor HS JROTC Color Guard



CAPT Bruce LaLonde with LCDR Bob Wall before the Portsmouth Memorial Day Parade



Left: CAPT Bruce LaLonde rides along with LCDR Bob Wall in the Portsmouth Memorial Day Parade.



The Norfolk Naval Shipyards USS Alabama BB-60 Float before the Portsmouth Memorial Day Parade. The USS Alabama was built by the NNSY, starting in 1940 and launched on January 9, 1942. It was Decommissioned in 1947. It presently resides as an Afloat Museum in Mobile, AL.

May Dinner Meeting Pictures



Sherry Ferki attaching the 12th 5 Star LOE MOAA Award for 2021 on our New Streamer.

Above: Part of the 2021 Leadership Team pictured with Sherry: Bob Brewer, Roger Hirsh, Ken App, and Hans Sachse



Left: Sherry Ferki and Donna App at the check-in table.

Right: Heather and Scott Dickinson



Right: Karl & Angela Wilson with Cindy & Bob Brewer



Above Left: Chris and CAPT Roger Hirsh with our Speaker, CAPT Tim Thompson.

Above Right: Lisa Parker with CWO4 Doug Weller and CAPT Bruce LaLonde



Above: Brenda Hostetler with Bob Wall and Bruce Ferki.

PROGRAMS

8 June 2023 Annual Dinner meeting honoring scholarship winner with Manor HS AJROTC Color Guard Bruce LaLonde, Portsmouth's SAFETY TOWN

July 16th Joint Brunch, Roger Brown's Restaurant 1000-1300 (10AM-1PM)

July 20th PACMOAA Board of Directors Virtual Meeting 1400-1600 (2PM – 4PM)

Sep, Oct, Nov TBD

December 2023 PACMOAA Annual Christmas Gala

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

In the summer months we are reminded of those lives who gave their all in many wars for our great country on Memorial Day, D-Day, and when we celebrate with our freedom on the Fourth of July. A message which supports a way we can follow, in a simple way, their example is found in the words of Helen Steiner Rice (from the Helen Steiner Rice Foundation).

The Rarest of Gifts

Every day is a reason
 For giving, and giving
 Is the key to living...
 So let us give "ourselves" away
 Not just today but every day...
 And remember a kind
 And thoughtful deed
 Or a hand outstretched
 In time of need
 Is the rarest of gifts,
 For it is a part
 Not of the purse but a loving heart—
 And he who gives
 Of himself
 Will find
 True joy of hear
 And peace of mind.



Submitted by
CAPT Bob Brewer,
USN (Ret)
Chaplin



CDR Ken App, USN (Ret)
Salute Editor

THAT'S A WRAP FOR MAY 2023

Please fill out the form below if any contact information has changed and submit to Sherry Ferki or Ken App.

PACMOAA MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM 2023

FULL NAME: _____ NICKNAME: _____

GRADE/RANK: _____ SERVICE: _____ BIRTH DATE: _____

STATUS: Active Retired Former Surviving Spouse

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

MOAA Membership No.: _____ (From MOAA card or Military Officer Mailing Label)

Spouse's Name: _____ Spouse's Nickname: _____

Are you willing to serve as board member or on a committee? () Yes () No

<u>Please circle payment plan you select:</u>	Discount	15%	20%
			<u>Best Value</u>
Membership Category	1 Year	2 Year	3Year
Retired/Active/Vet Regular (Voting Member)	\$25.00	\$42.50	\$60.00
Surviving Spouse (Voting Member)	\$20.00	\$34.00	\$48.00
Active Duty (Non-Voting Member)	\$5.00	\$8.50	\$12.00

Mail payment to: PACMOAA at PACMOAA, PO Box 5353 in Portsmouth, VA 23703

Or pay via PayPal:

From the PayPal Account Overview page, click the Send button. If prompted for whether the money will be sent to a business or friend, enter "friend". Type PACMOAATreasurer@gmail.com in the block where is says "name, @username, email, or mobile" and click "next". Enter the amount to transmit and add "For PACMOAA Dues" in the note section and click "continue". Review the information, including the bank account or credit card you want the funds to come from. Press "Send payment now" when everything looks correct.

DATE: _____ SIGNATURE: _____